Unemployment Scenario

1311. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the downsizing efforts of Government in their departments and PSEs has further aggravated the unemployment scenario in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed downsizing of the Ministries/ Departments and PSEs; and

(c) how Government propose to tackle the growing unemployment situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Out of a total of around 40 crore employment in the country in the year 2000 only around 49 crore were employed in Public Sector which includes Central Government, State Governments, Quasi Government (Central), Quasi Government (States) and Local Bodies. Therefore effects of downsizing in the Public Sector, even if affected, will have no significant effect on unemployment scenario in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth five year plan.

Farm Workers in Gujarat

1312. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the existing number of farm workers in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof giving men, women and child farm workers;

(c) the welfare measures being extended to these workers; and

(d) what minimum wages has been fixed for them and how it is being enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted. However, according to 1991 Census there are 3,242,069 agricultural workers in Gujarat.

(c) The Government has enacted the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 for the welfare of workers including agricultural workers. The Government has also launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001, a Social Security Scheme for agricultural workers to provide Life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension and superannuation benefits. Other schemes for the rural workers including agricultural workers like Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) etc. are also in operation for their welfare.

(d) As per information available, the wages of the agricultural workers in Gujarat is Rs. 75.80 per day. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, enforcement is through the enforcement machinery both at the Central and State level.

Minimum Social Protection

1313. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for providing minimum social protection;

(b) whether Government are serious about the Second Labour Commission Report; and

(c) whether any steps have been contemplated to arrest the tendency of dwindling labour content in the manufacturing industry in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Social protection is provided through various social security measures. In the organised sector, social security is provided to a large number of workforce in the country under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and Employees State Insurance Scheme. The EPF Scheme, in addition to the